NUMBER 30 MARCH, 1940

HARVARD LIBRARY NOTES

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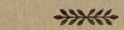
WITHDRAWN

THE FIRST BULGARIAN BOOK

THOMAS W. LAMONT COLLECTION
ON THE SPANISH ARMADA

CONCERNING THE LIBRARY
1929–1939



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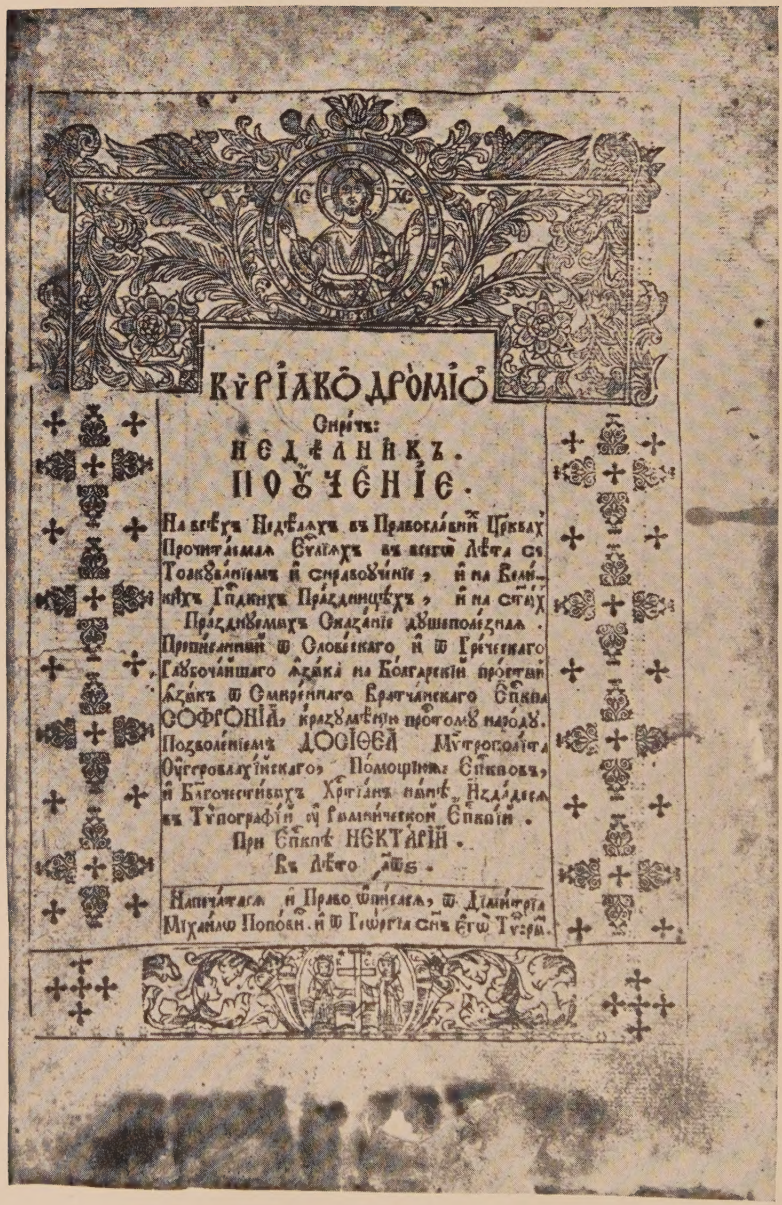

КѸРІАКѺДРОМІѺ
Сирѣч:
НЕДѢЛНИКЪ.
ПОУЧЕНІЕ.
На всѣхъ Недѣлахъ въ Православнїй Цркви
Прочитаемаа Святыхъ въ всегѡ лѣта съ
Тоѵкѵлїемъ и справоучителе, и на Вели-
кихъ Гдскихъ Праздницѣхъ, и на Стыхъ
Праздноуемыхъ Сказанїе дѵшеполезноа.
Преложенноѵ ѿ Словенскаго на Грѣческаго
Глаголѧщаго ѧзыка на Болгарскїй простый
ѧзыкъ ѿ Смиреннаго Кратїанскаго Епскпа
СОФРОНІЇ, краснѣемаго простомъ народѣ.
Позволенїемъ ДОСІѲЕѦ Мтрополїта
Оугровлахїйскаго, Помощїемъ Епскповъ,
и Благочестивыхъ Христїанъ цнтѣ. Издадеса
въ Тѵпографїи оу Рамнїческой Епскпїи.
При Епскпѣ НЕКТАРІЇ.
Въ лѣто ,ѪѲѕ.
Напечатасѧ и Право списасѧ ѿ Дїмїтра
Михаилѡ Попови. и ѿ Гюрґа Спъ Егѡ Тѵрн.
TITLE PAGE OF THE FIRST BULGARIAN BOOK
The *Kiriakodromion*, by Sofronïĭ, Bishop of Vratsa.
Printed in Rimnik, Wallachia, 1806.

HARVARD LIBRARY
NOTES

VOLUME III MARCH, 1940 NUMBER 7

THE FIRST BULGARIAN BOOK

By James F. Clarke

IN 1806, when Napoleon was nearing the climax of his power and when another of the periodic Russo-Turkish wars was starting, an exiled Bulgarian bishop was putting the final touches to the first book printed in Bulgarian. The publication of the *Kiriakodromion*, as it was called, was an event of the greatest significance in the national revival of a people who for over four centuries had been under Turkish domination. Its author, Stoĭko Vladislavov (1739–c. 1815) began life in Kotel, a village in the eastern part of the Balkan mountains, famous as the birthplace of a host of eminent men. An orphan, Stoĭko was successively a cattle-dealer, parish priest and teacher. Later he unwillingly became Sofroniĭ, bishop of Vratsa, and was at the same time saddled with a large "debt" to the Greek Patriarch in Constantinople, in accordance with the simoniacal practices of the Fanariote Church. For the next few years Sofroniĭ barely managed to keep one jump ahead of the lawless bands of the redoubtable rebel, Pasvan-Oglu of Vidin on the Danube, who terrorized northwestern Bulgaria in defiance of the Sultan's authority. Eventually escaping to Bucharest Sofroniĭ, among other activ-

ities, engaged in intrigues with the Russians, who, he hoped, would liberate his country from the Turks. Not until 1878, however, did this dream materialize.

Although enjoying his new-found security, Bishop Sofronii's conscience troubled him for having deserted his flock. To make amends he spent the rest of his life in writing "night and day," as he says, so that at least he could be read if not heard. Already in 1765 he had made the first copy of the monk Paisii's stirring albeit legendary chronicle of the "Bulgarian People, Kings and Saints" (*Istoriya Slavěnobolgarskaya*), completed on Mt. Athos in 1762. He left in manuscript several other compilations and translations, including Aesop's Fables, and a delightfully naive autobiography which he called "The Life and Sufferings of Sinful Sofronii," and which others have called the first original product of modern Bulgarian literature. The only work to be published in his lifetime was the *Kiriakodromion*, or "Sunday Book," popularly known as the "Sofronie," a copy of which, presumably the only one in this country, has recently been acquired by the Harvard College Library. In the preface Sofronii stressed the need for a translation of the Bible because the Slavic was no longer understood. As a substitute he compiled, from a similar Greek work and other sources, this collection of ninety-six sermons — one for each Sunday and Holy Day, one for christenings and one for newly-weds — containing the appropriate Scripture texts according to the Orthodox calendar, each followed by a simple exegesis. Printed at the episcopal press of Rimnik in Wallachia in an edition of 1000 copies, it is a sizeable quarto of 543 pages, 14 x 22 cm., the largest book until the Bible appeared in 1871. Its popularity is attested by the nine editions which followed, the latest in 1914, more than a hundred years after the first. It served as the family Bible in many Bulgarian homes and its size and reputation have helped to preserve a number of copies in

monasteries and churches. Although a mixture of Russianized Church Slavic along with surprisingly idiomatic expressions, the language on the whole is such as to give the *Kiriakodromion* the generally conceded distinction of being the first printed Bulgarian book.

Bulgarian books printed before the "Liberation" form a special bibliographical category which may be called "incunabula," inasmuch as there are no Bulgarian incunabula in the usual sense and as the same Bulgarian term, "staropechati" (old imprints) is applied to fifteenth century books as well as to these pre-Liberation books, beginning with Sofronii's book in 1806 and ending with Bobchev's account of the Russo-Turkish war in 1877. It is hard to say just how many items of all kinds were printed in this period, but a reasonable estimate would be around 1700 (exclusive of periodicals and newspapers, the first of which came in 1844 and 1848 respectively), most of them printed outside of what was to be Bulgaria, the majority in Constantinople, followed by Vienna, Bucharest, Belgrade and Budapest. One, a New Testament, was printed in New York in 1867 by the American Bible Society.

Because of the opposition of the Turkish civil and the Greek ecclesiastical authorities, it was impossible to get permits for presses in Bulgaria. Hence, the earliest ones were literally "underground" and ephemeral, so much so that their exact dates have not been definitely established. The first was a crude wooden hand press smuggled in from Serbia to Samokov about 1830, and concealed in a cellar which may still be seen, but for many years its owner dared not print anything but religious prints and block-books in Church Slavic with hand-carved wooden letters. The first native press to print a Bulgarian book originated about 1837 in a village of Macedonia which never became part of Bulgaria. It was soon transferred to Salonica but managed to last only a few years and to produce about half a dozen

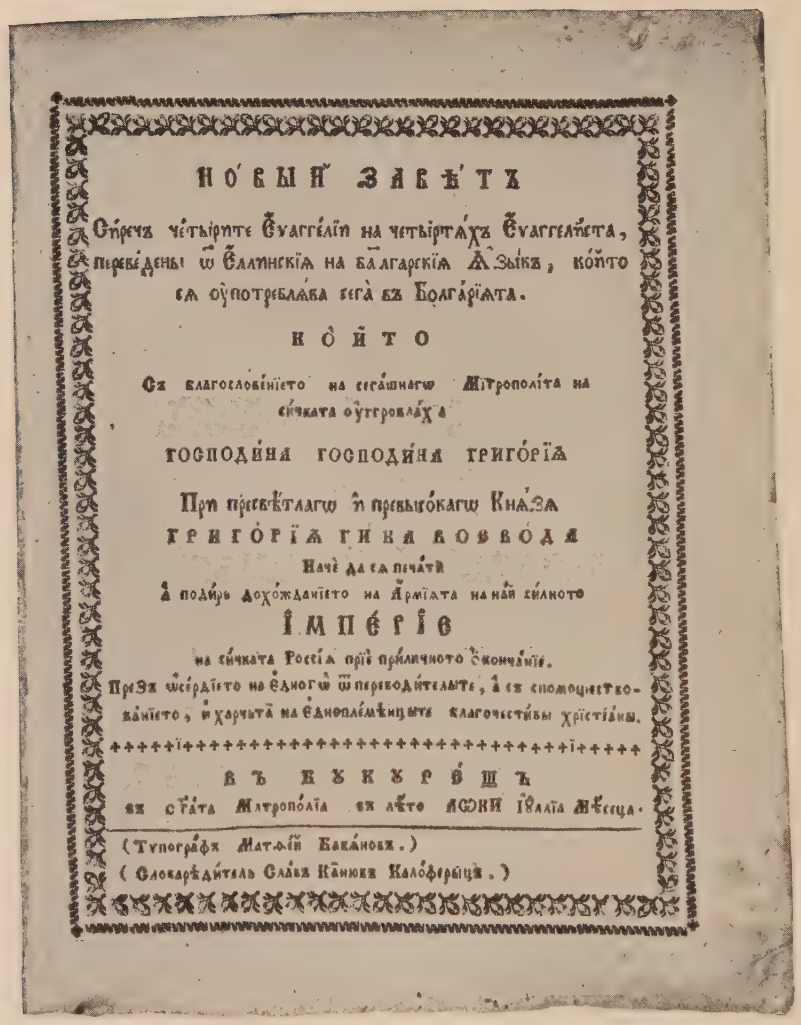
books, during which time it was twice burned by jealous Greeks. The first active press in what is now Bulgaria was not established until 1864, in Ruschuk, by the Turkish governor and reformer, Midhat Pasha; but as this was owned and controlled by the Turkish authorities, its scope was obviously restricted.

The Bulgarian "incunabula" are mainly elementary textbooks, religious works and *belles lettres*, with a sprinkling of historical and revolutionary literature; they are largely translations from Greek, Russian and French, and even a few from English, answering the needs and abilities of a people in the process of national awakening. Most of them would be classed as pamphlets, and many have little intrinsic value, but taken as a whole they provide a yardstick for the intellectual growth of the Bulgarians. Some are extremely rare and most of them are scarce, owing to the ravages of time and to the ignorance and carelessness of their possessors, as well as to the proscriptions of Greeks and Turks. Ioakim Gruev once got into trouble with the Turkish officials in Plovdiv for having in his possession a copy of *The Captain's Daughter* by Pushkin which they mistook for "pushka," the Bulgarian for gun. Usually these early books were published by subscription in limited quantities and were dispersed wherever there were Bulgarians — from Salonica to Odessa and beyond. Others were sold at the annual fairs where teachers came to look over the new textbooks, or were peddled by itinerant booksellers. The earliest communal library (reading room) was not established until 1856. H. G. Danov (1828–1911), the first Bulgarian publisher in the modern sense, began his activity in 1855 and the first publisher's catalogue was issued by him in 1862. For over half a century Danov continued his thriving business in Plovdiv, and today it is still carried on by his sons in Sofia.

Of these Bulgarian books the Harvard College Li-

SOFRONIĬ, BISHOP OF VRATSA (1739–c. 1815)

Contemporary portrait (1812), formerly in the possession of his great-grandson, Aleko Bogoridi, first governor of Eastern Rumelia; now in the National Museum of Plovdiv.



НОВЫЙ ЗАВѢТЪ

Сирѣч чѣтыритѣ Ѥвангелїи на чѣтыртѣхъ Ѥвангелїета, преведѣны ѿ Ѥлински на Блъгарскїй Ѧзыкъ, който сѫ оупотреблява сега въ Блъгарїата.

КОЙТО

Съ благословенїето на сегашнїй Митрополїта на сичката оутроба Христова

ГОСПОДИНЯ ГОСПОДИНЯ ГРИГОРЇЙ

При прѣсвѣтлѣй ѝ превысокѣй Кнѧзъ

ГРИГОРЇЙ ГИКА ВОЕВОДА

Начѣ да са печатѝ

Ѫ подиръ дохождането на Армїата на най сильното

ІМПЕРЇЄ

на сичката Россїа прѣ приличното Ѥкончанїе.

Пръвъ щѣрдѣнето на Ѥдногѡ ѿ переводителѣтѣ, Ѫ съ споможествованїето, ѝ харчѣтѣ на Ѥдноплеменнѣтѣ благочестивы христїанѣ.

ВЪ БУКУРЕЩЪ

въ сѫтата Митрополїа въ лѣто ЌѪѮѪ їѳлїа мѣсеца.

(Типографѣ Матѳѣй Бакановъ.)

(Словокарѣдитель Славя Кѫнюкъ Калоферецъ.)

TITLE PAGE OF THE *FOUR GOSPELS*

The first portion of the Bible published in Bulgarian.
Printed in Bucharest, 1828.

brary possesses about 120 titles, all but a dozen acquired during the summer of 1937, ranging from the contemporary leather-bound *Kiriakodromion* to a pertinent pamphlet printed at the time of the Bulgarian Massacres and entitled *Guide to Successful Battle with the Turks* (Bucharest, 1876). Included also are such items as *Friendly Counsels to Parents on how to Educate Their Children*, issued by the American missionaries in Smyrna (2d ed., 1851); a description of the wonders of the *Electrical Telegraph* (1858) translated by H. Vaklidov; a typical example of the Samokov press, printed in 1868; several textbooks by Gruev; *Letostruĭ*, a popular almanach published annually by Danov; a *Life of Franklin* (1874), translated from the French by S. S. Bobchev, who published his first translation in 1871 and is now the last survivor of this literary epoch; items by the poet P. R. Slaveĭkov, the real creator of modern Bulgarian literature and the most prolific author of this period; by L. Karavelov, famous revolutionary leader; and so on. Among the examples of half a dozen early Bulgarian periodicals, also acquired in 1937, may be mentioned ten yearly issues of the *Zornitsa* (1864 ff.), begun by the American missionaries in Constantinople, the oldest periodical still being published in Bulgaria today.

Among the more rare or interesting items may be singled out the first part of the Bible in Bulgarian, the *Four Gospels* (Bucharest, 1828), translated in part and published by Petar Sapunov when scarcely a dozen books had appeared in that language. Sapunov succeeded in disposing of only one-third of the edition of 1200 before another Russo-Turkish war interrupted his work. What became of the remaining copies was long a mystery, for even 100 years ago it was difficult to obtain. It seems, however, that Sapunov donated them to a school in his native Trevna. Perhaps because of a flattering as well as dangerous reference on the title-

page (here reproduced) to the "army of the most powerful empire of all Russia," they remained in storage, except as local grocers got hold of copies to use as wrapping paper, a practice still common in thrifty Bulgaria. Another more appropriate use was found about fifty years ago, when a Trevna school master tore off pages to use in teaching the alphabet. More recently the town fathers have put the few remaining copies under lock and key.

Next in order is a curious work by the famous Bulgarian teacher, Raino Popovich (1783–1858), whose pupils included some of the most noted leaders of the Bulgarian renaissance. It is called *Hristoithia or Good Manners* (*Hristoithia ili Blagonravie*), an excellent and popular book of etiquette on which contemporary young Bulgaria was brought up. Originally written in Latin, it had been translated into a number of languages including Greek before Popovich adapted it for Bulgarians. Several later versions appeared in Bulgarian and it is still popular in parts of Europe. A typical admonition reads: "Don't throw bones or pits under the table." Following such utilitarian lessons in deportment, Popovich added edifying stories about a number of ancient worthies. More important, however, is the introduction, where for a hundred pages (more than a third of the whole) he argued the advantages of secular education and the use of one's native language as well as the study of Greek. To many Bulgarians such ideas were as novel as his rules of etiquette. The last fifty pages are taken up with the names of 895 advance subscribers for 1393 copies, a characteristic feature of early Bulgarian books, to which many contributed for no other reason than to see their names in print. The book was printed in 1837 at the Budapest University Press.

One of the best known heroes of the Bulgarian *risorgimento* is Sava Stoĭkov, alias Georgi Rakovski (1821–1867), a restless revolutionary who was *persona non*

grata to the police of three empires. He was an early apostle of Balkan federation and the implacable foe of Turkish and Greek tyranny in Bulgaria. When not in prison or hatching Mazzinian plots he was busy editing newspapers and writing books. Rakovski was a typical product of nineteenth century nationalism. A pseudo-scholar obsessed with the idea that everything Bulgarian was traceable to a Sanskrit origin, he frequently twisted philology and history to suit his patriotic purposes. On the other hand, he was the first to publish the autobiography of Sofroniĭ (to whom he was distantly related) in one of his newspapers, the *Danube Swan*, in 1861; and he was also the first to point out the significance of Father Paisiĭ and his *Slavenobulgarian History*, which for about a century had been circulating anonymously in manuscript. The Library is fortunate in having his earliest and best known work, *The Mountain Traveler* (*Gorskiĭ Pŭtnik:* Novi Sad, 1857), which is in the form of an epic poem and begins:

> People brave in former days,
> Now you bear a heavy yoke,
> Liberty has gone from you,
> Turkish evil weighs you down!

It was characteristic of the author that only the first part was issued, half of it consisting of long historical notes. The Library also has the last pamphlet Rakovski published before his premature death, "part one" of a projected history of the Bulgarian "Robin Hoods" (*Bŭlgarskitĕ Haĭduti:* Novi Sad, 1867), of whom Rakovski himself was one of the greatest.

Lastly, among recent acquisitions the first edition of the whole Bible translated into Bulgarian (Constantinople, 1871) should be noted because it represents an outstanding contribution of England and America to the literature under consideration. It was the culmination of fifty years of effort on the part of agents of the British and Foreign Bible Society and American

missionaries, notably the great multi-linguist Dr. Elias Riggs of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Riggs was the author of *Notes on the Bulgarian Language* (Smyrna, 1844), now quite rare, a copy of which he presented to the Library in 1850, and which may be considered the origin of the Bulgarian collection. For a dozen years he worked on the Bulgarian Bible, with the help of native translators, who finished the task suggested by Sofroniĭ and started independently by Sapunov. Aside from religious considerations, this version had a considerable influence on the literary development of Bulgaria.

A cursory survey for comparative purposes of a few likely repositories would indicate that with the exception of a private collection containing about 400 items, the Harvard College Library now has the most extensive collection of old Bulgarian books in this country. Next in order come the American Board with approximately 110, almost exclusively Scriptures and missionary tracts; the New York Public with 55; the Boston Public 23; Andover-Harvard 20; Library of Congress 15; American Bible Society 10 (all Scriptures); Yale 7; and Columbia 5. About 45 years ago the Yale Divinity School Library had 58 Bulgarian missionary tracts, but these have since disappeared.

The Harvard College Library is already known for its extensive Slavic Collection, now further enriched by the recent Bulgarian acquisitions. Only a beginning has so far been made toward a collection of Bulgarian "incunabula," but at least it is a beginning which includes the "Sofronie."

THE LAMONT COLLECTION ON THE SPANISH ARMADA

By W. A. Jackson

THOMAS W. LAMONT '92, of New York City, has presented to the Library a valuable collection of books and manuscripts relating to the Spanish Armada of 1588. The collection contains nine contemporary manuscripts and sixty-four books printed before 1640.

The Defeat of the Armada will always be regarded as a crucial point in the history of both Europe and America. While it is possible that not much remains to be gleaned by historians from the records of that event, there can be no question but that such a representative collection as this which has been given by Mr. Lamont will provide a picture of that summer of 1588 so vivid and so complete that it may well induce not only a reappraisal of the story of the Armada, but also may be the means of inspiring an interest in History itself.

Among the manuscripts in the gift are two fine contemporary copies of the English "Treatise of the Navy" by John Mountgomery, one dated 1574, and the other 1589. The first was especially transcribed for Henry Percy, the "Wizard" Earl of Northumberland, who served against the Armada. The later manuscript appears to be superior in text and illustration to all other known copies and, indeed, is a most attractive manuscript with several carefully executed pen and wash drawings.

Also included is a manuscript narrative of the expedition by one of the Spanish *Religiosos*, Bernard de Gongora, written on board the Armada, and sent back to Spain while the fleet was in the English Channel.

There are signed documents showing the extent of Philip II's efforts, one being an order to the authorities in Peru to send contributions of gold and silver for the fitting out of ships, and others illustrating the organization of the English defence by the Lord High Admiral, Charles, Lord Howard of Effingham.

The earliest printed document is a copy of the Bull of Pope Pius V, "*Regnans in excelsis*," excommunicating Queen Elizabeth, which was published in 1570. This Bull provided "the bloody question" that doomed many Catholic martyrs in England. There exist at least two broadside editions of the Bull; the present one appears to be an example of the edition of which John Felton obtained a copy from the Spanish ambassador's chaplain, and which he nailed to the door of the Bishop of London's palace. At any rate, this edition can be shown to have been printed by the heirs of Bladius, the Roman printers who did much of the official Vatican printing at that time, and so is not one of the editions which the Papal Nuncios were ordered to have printed in the other capitals of Europe.

In the collection also are several propaganda publications contemporary with the Armada, issued by both the English and the Spanish. There are six editions of the famous "Mendoza Letter" written by Lord Burghley and printed in London, without any indication of its official source. Three of these editions are unrecorded, viz., one each in English, French, and Italian. All three were printed in London, the first two by John Vautrollier and the last by John Wolfe. The Italian edition of the "Letter" contains for the first time the ironical reference to the "Invincible Armada." An extraordinary item is a broadside printed in Seville, dated September 5, 1588, announcing a conclusive triumph of the Spanish fleet, the invasion of England, the capture of Drake, etc. This broadside poster, with the Royal Arms of Spain and the Royal License, was evidently

THE SPANISH ARMADA COLLECTION

GIVEN TO THE HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY BY
THOMAS W. LAMONT '92

placarded all over Spain. Only one other copy besides this, however, is known to survive, that in the Royal Academy at Madrid. There is likewise a small octavo of three leaves entitled "Copie d'une lettre envoyee de Dieppe, sur la rencontre des armes d'Espaigne d'Angleterre, & de la victoire obtenue par les Espagnols." This little book actually went through three editions in Paris during the summer of 1588.

Another group of books of particular interest is the various editions of the official account of the Armada at the time it sailed from Lisbon in May 1588. The first edition published at Lisbon is not in this collection, but two copies, one imperfect, are in the Library, having come with the Palha collection. Only two other copies of that edition can be located. Nine days later another official edition was published at Madrid. It is also of great rarity and the copy in the Lamont collection is a particularly fine one. Supplementing the Madrid edition there are two French translations, one containing supplementary matter of a later date; two editions of a German translation, one the original Cologne edition, and the other printed at Nuremburg; and a copy of the English translation, a book of singular rarity in the market.

The collection contains altogether forty books printed in England before 1640, including the rare English translation of the "Orders given by the Duke de Medina Sidonia to be observed in the voyage towards England"; "The Holy Bull and Crusado of Rome 1588"; and the official account, written for the Lord High Admiral, by Petruccio Ubaldini, "A discourse concerninge the Spanishe fleete invadinge Englande," 1590. There are four books, or editions of books, included in this collection which were printed in England before 1640, but which have not previously been recorded by bibliographers. A few of these books duplicate ones already in the Library, but in most cases it has been discovered that they are

not exact duplicates; for example, Harvard already possessed three copies of Hakluyt's *Voyages*; one, with the device of the "Wizard" Earl of Northumberland on the binding, has the 1599 "yeres" title and the re-inserted sheets of the Voyage to Cadiz in the original 1598 setting; another, in the library of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, has the signature of Christopher Hatton (d. 1670), the 1599 "yeres" title, and the nineteenth century (third) reprint of the Voyage to Cadiz; while the third, in the Tower collection in the Institute of Geographical Research, has the 1599 "yeres" title, and the original setting of the Voyage to Cadiz. The copy just presented by Mr. Lamont has the 1598 title, and is the only one of the copies with the original setting of the Voyage to Cadiz which has those sheets in a state which removes all suspicion of sophistication.

This collection was put together over a considerable number of years by James P. R. Lyell, the English student and collector of Spanish sixteenth century books. Many of the volumes have distinguished provenance, several coming from the Britwell Court library, others from the Henry Huth, Sir Henry Hope Edwards, the John Eliot Hodgkin, and the Richard Ford libraries, while several have the signatures of such interesting earlier owners as Humphrey Dyson and William Byrd, the musician. The general condition is excellent and in one case is of other than aesthetic and bibliophilic importance, for the Lamont copy of the first edition of Thomas Scott's "The second part of Vox Populi" is completely uncut and thus preserves the imprint "Printed at Goricum by Ashuerus Janss, 1624. Stilo nouo." which is lacking in the only copy recorded in the Short-Title Catalogue.

When this collection was offered to the Library last spring its importance and interest was immediately recognized. However, it was obvious that we could not acquire it out of Library income and therefore it was

mentioned in a letter sent out to The Friends of the Harvard Library as one of several items that the Library could not afford. From that letter Mr. Lamont learned of the collection and offered to see what could be done about acquiring it when he went to England last July. During his visit he concluded negotiations for the purchase of the collection and, not long after, the books arrived at Widener — certainly one of the pleasantest of accessions because so ardently desired, and yet, originally, so remote a possibility.

THE MEDICAL SCHOOL LIBRARY

Part II

By Reginald Fitz

THE BEGINNING of its second century found the Medical School Library overshadowed by its young rival, the new Boston Medical Library. On December 21, 1874, Drs. H. I. Bowditch, S. A. Green, R. T. Edes, Thomas Dwight, F. I. Knight, and J. R. Chadwick met at the office of Dr. Bowditch for the purpose of taking measures to establish a medical library in Boston; a week later they were joined by Drs. H. P. Bowditch, Francis Minot, C. J. Blake, C. P. Putnam, C. E. Stedman, A. H. Nichols, W. L. Richardson, E. Wigglesworth, J. C. Warren, R. H. Fitz, J. O. Green, F. W. Draper, and E. N. Forster. It was agreed by these men that a medical library should be established. I mention the names of the founders of this library because, on the whole, they sound like the young radical wing of a conservative old faculty: Edes was Assistant Professor of Materia Medica; Dwight, Instructor in Histology; Knight, Instructor in Percussion, Auscultation and Laryngoscopy; Chadwick, Lecturer on Diseases of Women; H. P. Bowditch,

Assistant Professor of Physiology; Minot, Professor of Theory and Practice; Blake, Lecturer in Otology; Putnam, Lecturer in Diseases of Children; Wigglesworth, Lecturer in Syphilis; Warren, Instructor in Surgery; Fitz, Assistant Professor of Pathological Anatomy, and J. O. Green, Lecturer in Otology.

The Boston Medical Library flourished; our teachers, young and old, were keenly interested in it, built it up as energetically as they could, and as they died off willed their books to it. For many years the Medical School Library was of little account.

The North Grove Street Medical School grew. In 1869, when Mr. Eliot became President, there were 308 students being trained there. Admittedly they received a poor education. For, as Dr. O. W. Holmes remarked somewhat satirically, life at the time was cheap. Medical visits in the country were worth only twenty-five cents apiece, and hence the ambitious student could not afford to make an expensive outlay of his future work. So it was that Mr. Eliot, after studying the situation, decided that the whole system of medical education in this country, and particularly at Harvard, needed thorough reformation.

The medical faculty was self-assertive in those days, and Mr. Eliot's reforms were not obtained without opposition. At one of Mr. Eliot's first appearances at a faculty meeting, Dr. H. J. Bigelow, a forceful, colorful figure, given to having his own way in almost everything, said, "How is it, I should like to ask, that this faculty has gone on for eighty years, managing its own affairs and doing it well, and now within three or four months is proposing to change all our moods in carrying on the School? It seems very extraordinary and I should like to know how it happened."

"I can answer Dr. Bigelow's question very easily," replied the bland, grave young Eliot. "There is a new President."

This new President very quickly made his influence felt. The number of students was cut down; laboratory work done by students began to play a part in the curriculum; the old building was made over to contain a decent chemical laboratory, a laboratory for physiology, and a laboratory for microscopic work; the plant was soon outgrown.

Before long the question of erecting a new building was agitated. Opinions were divided as to where the new School had best be placed. Some of the faculty thought the new School should be situated at all costs near a hospital; others that it should lie midway between the Massachusetts General Hospital and the Boston City Hospital so as to secure the clinical advantages of both institutions; still others that the present building on North Grove Street should be retained and an addition made to it large enough to provide for those branches which were not clinical. Finally, the Corporation decided the affair and authorized the Treasurer of the University to buy the lot of land at the corner of Boylston and Exeter Streets consisting of 33,000 feet; and at a meeting of the Medical Faculty on April 17, 1880, a committee was appointed to superintend the planning and building of a new School. It was expected to be "the Home of Medicine for generations."

In drawing up the plans, the matter of a library received due consideration. When the new School opened in 1883, the Boston Medical Library, a prosperous concern, now was living in comfortable quarters at 19 Boylston Place and the question arose as to whether it might be prevailed on to move and to establish itself in the new Medical School.

The Boston Medical Library's records for November 28, 1883, show that its Executive Committee voted, after a very careful consideration of the expediency of moving the library to the building of the Medical School, to express a decided conviction that such a

transfer would be disadvantageous to the best interests of their library. Thus the Medical School Library was forced to make other plans. On February 2, 1884, a Committee was appointed to consider the best disposition to be made of the books belonging to the Medical School.

The essential features of the recommendations of this Committee are interesting. They sound very modern. The Committee recommended that working libraries be established in the subjects of Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, Histology, Embryology, and Pathology, "the books to be kept in connection with the laboratories in which these subjects are taught"; that also there should be established a general library comprising all the valuable books now in the collection not wanted by the special libraries, and that this general library should be added to by the purchase of books from library funds; that "such books now belonging to the School as will be of use for consultation by students be placed in the students' study"; and that all books not so reserved should be given to the Boston Medical Library in return for such of their duplicate volumes as might be desired by the School. There was to be a Standing Library Committee representing the Departments of Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, Pathological Anatomy, Surgery, and General Medicine, "the latter to have two representatives"; and a Faculty Member appointed to take charge of the general library under the direction of the Library Committee. In this manner departmental libraries grew up, each with its special bookplate, and a general library policy was outlined which was to last for many years.

When the Medical School Library made these mild advances to the Boston Medical Library, there appears to have been not the slightest ill-feeling at so cool a reception. The Medical School Library soon gave

away nearly 1,500 volumes to the Boston Medical Library in exchange for a few duplicates.

In 1901 the Boston Medical Library moved to the Fenway. It had outgrown the club-like atmosphere of Boylston Place and was now badly overcrowded in its efforts to house some 32,000 volumes and 27,000 pamphlets; hence funds were raised by public subscription for a new building.

Dr. David W. Cheever, Professor Emeritus of Surgery in the School at the time, was President of the Medical Library. In asking for help he said of the new venture, "This is to be an Academy of Medicine, a medical club and meeting place, and a future home of the Massachusetts Medical Society. It will be a credit to medicine and a valuable repertory of books and periodicals."

Shortly after the new building was opened the Library in Cambridge deposited in it, through Mr. Lane, 3,200 medical books and 523 volumes of medical periodicals, pamphlets, and journals. These had been accumulating in Cambridge for over a hundred years. There was little call for them in Gore Hall, they took up valuable space, and it seemed a natural thing to shelve them in an Academy of Medicine in Boston near the Medical School where the books could be generally used — particularly in an Academy of Medicine largely controlled by the Medical Faculty.

At about the time of these happenings the Medical Faculty was becoming restless. The School was growing and improving and, above all, was finding the Exeter Street building unsatisfactorily small. In 1900 the Faculty, in discussing what to do next, agreed "that the Francis Street estate between Longwood Avenue and Francis Street in Longwood is most desirable for the location of buildings under the charge of the Faculty of Medicine"; and a Committee was appointed to consider plans for new buildings to be erected there.

In making plans for the new School the committee in charge attempted to be as farsighted as possible. It was felt that any plant constructed to meet future requirements in medical teaching must necessarily make laboratories the principal feature. A unit system was selected as the ideal type of building, including in its scheme space for an Administration Building and individual buildings for the fundamental medical sciences of Anatomy, Pathology, Physiology, and Hygiene. In each of the four main buildings, so planned, there were to be libraries, and these were expected, as they grew, to meet the various requirements of the several departments using them. Thus the idea of a general library as had been set up in Exeter Street was abandoned.

I can recall hearing my father discuss, with various of his friends, these plans when they were being developed, and my recollection is that the men of his generation anticipated the growth of a large Harvard Medical School educating many students, each building in the unit plan some day to represent an Institute for Teaching and Research in its special field and likely, as time went on, to become increasingly independent and self-contained. Hence, a decentralized type of library service was deliberately sought for in anticipation that as the future developed, strong departmental libraries in the various buildings would prove more useful than any other type of library.

And so our present Medical School occupied its new buildings in the fall of 1906. The day when the library of the University should be enriched with a collection more perfect than any in America of the most approved authors in anatomy, surgery, physic, and chemistry still seemed almost as far off as it did in 1783.

In the due course of time there grew up twelve or more minor collections of books at the Harvard Medical School. No one could have foreseen the rapid growth of research that developed in the new School, the

amount of departmental and interdepartmental investigation that grew up, or the steadily enlarging demands for books that occurred. But gradually it became evident that the segregation of books in small departmental libraries was uneconomical, leading to unnecessary reduplication, and that the wise thing to do was again to form a general library.

In 1914 the amalgamation of many of the minor departmental libraries began, and by 1927 Dr. Joslin and Miss Frances Whitman were able to describe the Library as now composed of a central library in the Administration Building with two small departmental libraries in different buildings: one for the Department of Anatomy, the other for the Department of Physiology and Biochemistry. The central library contained books, periodicals, and reprints on all subjects of the School curriculum; the departmental libraries contained works related to the departments concerned.

In 1928 the quarters of the Central Library were moved because of need for more space. Dean Edsall, with the help of the Rockefeller Foundation, was able to combine with our central library the Library of the School of Public Health and house the two on the second floor of the Administration Building in much pleasanter rooms than were heretofore available. Stacks and cubicles were built into a small amphitheatre which had fallen into disuse, and a proper Librarian's office, a suitable workroom, and attractive reading rooms were opened. In 1929 the Warren Library came to us — a unique collection of books accumulated between 1783 and 1928 "by five successive generations of distinguished surgeons and teachers devoted to the welfare of the Harvard Medical School." In 1932 Mr. Edgar H. Wells started the Society of Friends of the Medical School Library. These friends add, each year, a number of fine books, otherwise impossible to obtain, by which the Library becomes increasingly more interesting and

complete than previously. In 1933 the Medical School class of 1908 introduced a pleasant fashion at its twenty-fifth reunion by donating to the Library a sum of money the income from which was to be used for the purpose of buying books. Subsequent twenty-five-year-old classes have followed the fashion, so that a Memorial Fund of this nature is gradually accumulating. In 1934 the Magrath Library was added — a collection dealing with Legal Medicine and containing many rare books, in this particular field, found with difficulty in other libraries of this country.

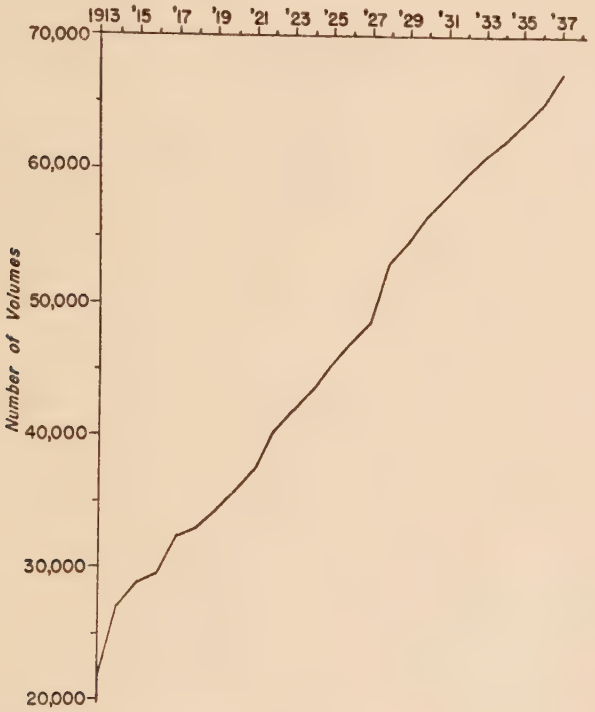
To my mind the most striking single feature of our Library during the past twenty-five years has been its steady growth in spite of the financial unpleasantness of 1929. The growth in size is well illustrated by the number of volumes.

When Dr. Edsall moved the Central Library to its present rooms I remember how complacent were the feelings of the Library Committee. It seemed there was space enough available for at least twenty-five years; nobody foresaw the voracious appetite for literature that oncoming students and faculty would display nor the number of books that would be attracted to us.

Now, at the end of eleven years, this new library already is overcrowded, there is insufficient stack room for the new books that come to us each year; and best of all, the students seem to feel that the more there is to read the pleasanter reading is. Like Oliver Twist, unblushingly, they ask for more.

I have dropped into the Library at many odd moments. There always are people at work; during lunch hour or on free afternoons, students in crowds — reading, studying, looking at new books and periodicals, browsing in old volumes, learning the charm of the musty smell of the stacks and how exciting it is to turn up something in the volume two or three away from that which one's reference demands is to be read care-

fully. The telephone rings every few minutes and Miss Holt gives out information: a Biblical reference, or the latest authoritative article on sulphanilamid, or perhaps she must explain to an out-of-town visitor what time the Massachusetts General Hospital Out-patient Department is open or who is a reliable obstetrician. For



GROWTH OF THE HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL LIBRARY

the Library is an active storehouse of medical knowledge and must be ready to answer any question at all hours.

The Inter-library Loan work increases by leaps and bounds. A few years ago there was no particular demand by other libraries for our books because our collection was so commonplace and insignificant. Now each year we send books all over the country — last year, for example, among other places, to such good

medical library centers as the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, McGill University in Montreal, Northwestern University in Chicago, Yale, and even to the Welch Library in Baltimore. In fact the Library of the Medical School and School of Public Health is today an active, energetic, progressive part of the University.

I think our branch of the Harvard Library can look the Corporation of 1783 in the eye quite unashamedly. It is true that circumstances have not yet permitted us to be enriched with a collection of all the most approved authors in anatomy, surgery, physic, chemistry, etc. — a collection more perfect than any in America. But we are on our way.

THE KRESS LIBRARY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

By Arthur H. Cole

A STEP of major significance, not merely to the Business School but to the whole University, was revealed in the announcement by Dean Donham that Claude Washington Kress, Esq., of New York, had purchased for the Business School Library the Foxwell Collection of materials relating to economic and business history, and had provided funds whereby this extraordinary library could be housed in an appropriate room in Baker Library. For the Business School, this development in Dean Donham's phrase, provided the "roots" for the large, specialized assembly of materials in Baker Library devoted primarily to the 19th and 20th centuries. For the University as a whole, it is significant in supplying, on the economic and business side, a counterpart of the wealth of material on political, lit-

erary, and other aspects of history already gathered together in the Harvard College Library and in the Library of the Harvard Law School.

The Foxwell Collection of approximately 35,000 items relates to the economic and business history of countries in Europe, particularly England. Being limited primarily to the literature of these countries, it forms a complement to the books on American economic and business evolution already available in the several Harvard libraries. Since Professor Foxwell's interest was particularly confined to the period before 1848, this Collection provides exceptionally well the "roots" just mentioned.

Its scope is wide. Hundreds of items relate to continental European affairs, and extend from Bude's 1522 treatise on French money to the 1803–16 collection of *Economisti Italiani*; and from a set of Diderot's *Encyclopedia* to a first edition of Karl Marx's *Das Kapital.* Even richer is the British material, as already intimated. From Thomas Wilson's *Discourse upon Usurie* (1584) it reaches to long runs of the proceedings of the House of Commons and the House of Lords; and from proclamations of Cromwell and the early Stuarts, it extends to the rare first edition of Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* in the original boards.

The unusual character of this Harvard acquisition is indicated further by the fact that there are but two other notable collections in this field. One, made in the 19th century by the same Professor Foxwell, was sold in 1901 to the Goldsmiths' Company of London, which in turn presented it to the Library of the University of London. The time in which this Goldsmiths' Library was assembled and the circumstances surrounding the formation of the second Foxwell Collection conspire to make these two libraries somewhat different in the opinion of those who have used them, at least "at the margin," as the economist might say. Since the Gold-

smiths' Library was formed fifty years ago, it does contain certain items which could not later be duplicated. On the other hand, we have the opinion of Mr. John Maynard Keynes and of others, that the second Foxwell Collection is superior in some departments. Probably there are enough rare and scarce books in each, so that each may claim superiority somewhere.

A second large private library in this general area was that of the late Professor E. R. A. Seligman, who sold it to Columbia University. Just how this compares with the Harvard acquisition cannot now be asserted. Apparently Columbia is stronger in certain fields such as public finance and German imprints in general; but in breadth and in physical condition our Foxwell Collection may come out more favorably. At all events no one library can contain everything, and Harvard men will be pleased to know that one of the three great assemblies of economic and business literature has come to the Business School Library.

Now housed in the Kress Library of Economics and Business, this Collection was brought together by Professor Herbert Somerton Foxwell, of St. John's College, Cambridge University. Author of a volume entitled *Papers in Current Finance*, various articles in professional journals, and prefaces to books by other writers, his largest contribution to economic science resulted from his activity in book collecting, and from his interest in bibliography. Indeed, his bibliographical and historical notes scattered through the whole collection are invaluable, whether carefully inserted within the covers of bound volumes, or on the neat paper jackets which he provided for his unbound pamphlets. These will remain important guides to research workers.

Professor Foxwell's notes really deserve further comment. Regarding an anonymous French item of 1722, entitled *Traité de la Richesse des Princes*, he remarks that this is "an important book, original in its treat-

ment, laying stress on a more equal distribution of wealth, as Vanderlint [did] 12 yrs. later." Again, he remarks of Moreau de Beaumont's *Mémoires concernant les impositions et droits en Europe*, that this is "the very rare work on which Adam Smith founded much of his account of taxes in the W. of N. [Wealth of Nations]. . . . Adam Smith refused to lend his copy, given him by Turgot, on account of its rarity." Regarding John Powell's *Causes of the present Crisis Explained*, written in 1825, he indicates that in his opinion this is "a very remarkable tract, which on p. 17 anticipates Rodbertus' theory of crises: & gives its author a claim to rank among the founders of the English Socialist school." Occasionally Professor Foxwell abandons the role of impartial bibliographer. Upon a pamphlet of 1689, pertaining to Ireland, he expresses the hope that the "mischief" which the seventeenth-century author foresaw from the abandonment of Ireland may yet be averted, but adds, "We have richly deserved" such a misfortune.

The Kress gift is most opportune. The difficult and troubled times through which the world is passing seem to encourage the study of history. Reformers are notably impatient, often indisposed to examine the lessons of experience. On the other hand, historical investigation is peculiarly apposite, since to the historian the world is moving, and has been moving for some decades, toward a return to earlier concepts.

The Kress Library of Economics and Business, housed in a splendid special room in the Baker Library, provides a noteworthy extension of library facilities at Harvard University, and offers opportunities for research and study hitherto unavailable.

HARVARD LIBRARY NOTES

C. E. WALTON EDITORS GERTRUDE M. SULLIVAN

TO HARVARD MEN everywhere, Walter Benjamin Briggs needs no descriptive qualification of title. Situated for twenty-nine years where demands upon the institution are concentrated, he has appeared possibly less as a librarian and more as an hospitable symbol of all the Harvard Library is or seeks continually to be. To a greater degree than is usually the case upon such occasions, Mr. Briggs's retirement on March 1, 1939, will be felt both within and without the University. Those who use Harvard's books most have arrived at an appreciation of the broad view of his responsibilities which two different early periods of development led him to take.

The first of these may be said to have begun, as a young man of sixteen, with his introduction to Justin Winsor. After ten years as a junior member of the staff, under the watchful eye of one then in his prime as a librarian of first rank, the essential foundations of a library philosophy were established. Eight years of practical responsibility followed as Superintendent of the Reading Room.

Mr. Briggs's appointment as Reference Librarian in the Brooklyn (N. Y.) Public Library in 1904 initiated a second period of professional training which was to last until his return to Cambridge. Five years afterward he became Librarian of Trinity College, where until 1915 those problems which result from a scholar's use of books passed under his eye. Called back to Harvard, upon the completion of the Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library building, as an Assistant Librarian with a voice in the general conduct of Library affairs,

Walter Benjamin Briggs entered upon his work as head of the reference and circulation department for which he is best known.

In order that the needs of the Harvard community might have adequate consideration, and moreover that the needs of the Harvard Library might always find representation equal in merit, he felt it necessary to give especial attention to all those aspects of library service which might affect its public relations. The conspicuous success achieved over the years in this difficult task was rewarded by appointment as Associate Librarian (the first in our history) from 1936, and for the year 1936–37 Mr. Briggs was asked to serve as Acting Librarian. His penetrating and sympathetic counsels will endure in the memory of those Harvard generations to whom he has been a stimulating guide and friend.

C. E. WALTON

Friends of the Library—1938–39

THE "Friends of the Harvard Library" has been undergoing a thorough reorganization. The business depression which swept over the country late in 1929 made its continuance, on an informal basis, precarious, and crippled its effectiveness. A "new deal" was greatly needed, and has been undertaken.

In this task definite progress has been made. Two officers have been selected, and an "advisory council" is in process of formation. To the 173 registered members on the rolls at the close of 1938, 1097 new names have been added. Thus the "Friends" today, so far as numbers are concerned, is perhaps first, and certainly second, of the hundred library groups in the country.

Not since the academic year 1929–30 have such valuable gifts been received. The "Friends" have made 23 gifts of books and 184 contributions in money, which

have been helpful beyond any relation to their size in supplementing the Library's own inadequate resources for the purchase of books. When one realizes that the Library's income for this purpose, after periodicals and serials have been paid for, amounts to slightly less than fifty thousand dollars, three quarters of which is restricted, one can see how much the forty-four hundred dollars in voluntary, unrestricted gifts from the "Friends" was appreciated. Together this total is far below the income of certain other libraries in the country, including some a fraction of Harvard's size.

In spite of progress, therefore, there is still great need, and a long distance to go. Other, and smaller library "Friends" organizations raise more money than Harvard does. Yet it is Harvard's conception that an entirely voluntary approach is the only one for the long future. Those who cannot help by gifts in money can help with books. And bequests, if they can be encouraged, may be of more value perhaps than current, and smaller, contributions. This long-range viewpoint will govern the policy of the organization.

The cash gifts during the year came from as widely different sources as a member of the Harvard Corporation and a younger graduate living in the Middle West. It may be of interest that they made possible the purchase of 19 books, over 1200 photographs, and 800 odd autograph letters. Among the gifts of books two were outstanding: the collection on the Spanish Armada given by Thomas W. Lamont, '92, and the Elizabethan books and manuscripts given by the heirs of the W. A. White estate, through the kind offices of Harold T. White, '97, a member of the Library Visiting Committee.

The Armada Collection comprises 64 printed books and 9 manuscripts, which were gathered together by a Scotsman, J. P. R. Lyell, now resident near Oxford, England. Mr. Lamont personally carried out the nego-

tiations for their purchase this last summer in London. They were put on exhibition during the latter part of November in the new cases, installed by the Widener trustees in the rotunda in front of the Widener Room. A more detailed description of the collection will be found in this number of the Library Notes.

The gift of 112 volumes of Elizabethan literature by the White heirs is of equal importance. Coming, as it does, in addition to many previous benefactions in the same field, it further strengthens the Library's great collection of this period. It is hoped that a full list of these books, together with the nearly four hundred other volumes from the same library at Harvard, may soon be issued. An exhibition of this latest accession was held over the weekend of the Harvard-Yale football game.

Within the space of this short article the names of all the donors cannot, unfortunately, be given. Nor can we do more than acknowledge gratefully the thanks due them and the larger body of "Friends" who have lent their names and their moral support. But it is amply clear that the "Friends of the Harvard Library" deserve the sincere thanks of the University and of the Library staff.

PHILIP HOFER

The Library Club

THE HARVARD University Library Club has held five dinner meetings and two business meetings since March, 1938.

In May, 1938, at a dinner meeting at the Harvard Business School Faculty Club, Mrs. Helen B. Allen spoke on the Audubon drawings and plates which had recently been on exhibition at the Harvard College Library, and Mr. Kilgour described the development of

microphotography at the Harvard College Library. Dr. Cole told the Club about the Foxwell Collection acquired by the Business School, and members of the Club were given an opportunity to inspect the new room just completed for the purpose of housing this collection.

Mr. Bernard DeVoto's informal discussion of his research and discoveries in a collection of unpublished Mark Twain manuscripts, from which he quoted freely, was given in November.

At the next meeting, held in January at the Hotel Continental, Mr. William A. Jackson spoke on the bibliographer and bibliophile, Thomas Frognall Dibdin. Mr. Jackson brought copies of Dibdin's books and manuscripts for the Club to see.

On March 29, Professor Frederick A. Pottle of Yale, an editor of the famous Isham Collection of Boswell papers, traced the history of the Douglas cause and the part Boswell played in it.

Mr. Briggs, at the May meeting, told the Club about the map collection at Widener, closing with a few of his early Harvard Library reminiscences. Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. White were guests at the meeting. Mr. White, Assistant Librarian of the Commonwealth National Library of Australia, spoke briefly about the Commonwealth Library.

After a short business meeting on June 7, 1939, Mr. Grieder, Assistant Librarian of the School of Public Administration, told the Club something about the Littauer Center, and took the group on a tour through the building.

ON SEPTEMBER FIRST Mr. T. Franklin Currier gave over the active administration of the Catalogue Department to Dr. Andrew D. Osborn in order to devote his time to a bibliography of Oliver Wendell

Holmes. He still keeps his position as Associate Librarian and occupies a study on the top floor of the Library, so that he is available for consultation and advice.

The success of his Whittier bibliography had made him welcome the opportunity of a similar undertaking for Holmes. But Whittier has not been forgotten, for the Harvard University Press has recently published under Mr. Currier's editorship an interesting series of letters that passed between Whittier and his sister, and a cultivated and charming Philadelphia woman, Elizabeth Lloyd.

M. M. TUCKER

THE BOSTON Group of Cataloguers and Classifiers, of which Miss Constance Carter, of our Catalogue Department, is Executive Committee Chairman, held its fall meeting on November 16. Mr. Philip Hofer, the speaker of the evening, gave a most entertaining account of his experiences as a book hunter in Europe, and Miss Margaret Currier reported briefly on the San Francisco meeting of the A. L. A.

PERCY HARRINGTON TUFTS, one of the oldest members of the Library staff, died, at the age of sixty-nine, on April 23, 1939. He was born in Roxbury on January 7, 1870, the son of Charles Otis and Mary Chapman (Banfield) Tufts. Preparing at the Roxbury Latin School, he graduated from Amherst College with the Class of 1893. He came to the Harvard Library in the fall of that year, and began the long faithful service that he gave to it until his retirement forty-three years later, in September, 1936. All of this time he was a valued member of the Order Department, where he was

in charge of forwarding new books as they came from the booksellers. He was also during most of this period acting custodian of the Map Room and of the Archives. In all this work faithfulness was his characteristic Indeed it sometimes seemed that he was over-scrupulous in giving full measure of his time to his allotted tasks. Shy and unself-assertive, he was never a man to put himself forward, and only those who had worked with him for years appreciated the true value of his service to the Library. There was nothing spectacular in the life of Percy Tufts — no high lights to bring out. But in thinking of him or writing of him two words constantly crop up — "stanch" and "faithful." To him may well be given the biblical blessing, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

A. C. POTTER

THE LAW SCHOOL LIBRARY IN LANGDELL HALL

By Robert B. Anderson

WITH the completion of Langdell Hall and our occupancy of it, the respective locations of the members of the faculty and of the library staff were completely changed. Instead of stack-stalls in one group each professor had now a room for his individual and exclusive use and the library workers also were widely separated, only those engaged in the delivery of books being near the reading room. Consequently, my direct contact with the great body of students was now lost.

Another innovation at the time — women secretaries began to appear; as far as the faculty was concerned, only one at first, but the die was cast. Dean Ames stolidly resisted until the end. I really do not know why. I believe it would have prolonged his life, had he been able to delegate more of his routine duties. Mr.

Arnold compromised. I remember his telling me shortly after I became his office assistant that he had tried a woman once, but never again. Some years before we moved into the new building I had started to compile a bibliography of British colonial statutes, periodicals, and reports. In order to assist in its preparation a young girl was hired to do the typing. On the abandonment of this work two or three years later (owing to the printing of a short work of the same nature by Messrs. Sweet and Maxwell of London) this girl was transferred to the catalogue staff. Mr. Arnold started to borrow her from my room, a few minutes a day at first, but gradually more. When he died we had a cataloguer working almost entirely in the Librarian's room, but he never had a secretary.

My room was over that of the Librarian on the east side of the building. Our window overlooked the region where Cruft Laboratory now stands. This formed part of a large yard belonging to a house on Oxford Street. There were two very small children living here and the maid frequently brought one or the other out into the yard through the cellar door, so they were popularly known to the girls on our staff as the "Cellar babies." I learned later that they were the daughters of Librarian Lane of the College Library. One of them is now the wife of the Director of the Boston Public Library.

The ground about the new building was low and required a good deal of filling. The work was quite rapidly accomplished on the east, but the land between Langdell and Hastings remained for a long time a dump — no other word so well describes it. I remember at one time Mr. Adams (Mr. Arnold's successor) had a rather dignified guest whom he was guiding about the building. Mr. Adams possessed a dry humor that was rather disconcerting at times. I had accompanied him and his visitor into the West Catalogue Room. It was in the afternoon and the room was bright and sunny. The

visitor expatiated on the cheerfulness of the room. "Yes," said Mr. Adams, "and such a beautiful view." The stranger looked at me with a puzzled expression and said nothing. Mr. Adams retained his poker face.

There were seven floors of stacks in the new building, the reading room being on a level with the fourth. It seemed when we moved in that the library now possessed an almost inexhaustible amount of shelf room, but we were soon disillusioned.

As we had plenty of room Dean Ames, at the suggestion, I believe of Professor Beale, decided that the time had come to round out our collection of old continental law books. He first spoke to me about it in 1909, but his illness and untimely death prevented anything more being done at the time. The matter was taken up again with our new Dean, Professor Ezra Ripley Thayer, and it was decided that I should visit several of the most important book marts in continental Europe. Consequently, I left in the early summer of 1911 and returned in the late fall. As a result several thousands of French, German, and Italian law books were added to the Library, I hope judiciously selected. In the same year the great library of books on International law belonging to the Marquis of Olivart was purchased. So for a time we were literally swamped with books.

In connection with my European trip I want to mention an act of consideration on the part of Dean Thayer. As originally planned, Mrs. Anderson and my very young daughter were going with me. I had submitted to the Dean a tentative itinerary and from this he learned that I planned to reach Italy in the late summer. Without saying anything to me he wrote to a friend of his in Italy to find out if it were a safe climate for a young child at that time of the year. As it happened, owing to Mrs. Anderson's poor health at the time, I went alone, but I have never forgotten the thoughtfulness of Mr. Thayer.

A year or two later the legal portion of the library of George Dunn was purchased at auction at Sotheby's in London. It consisted almost entirely of sixteenth century English books and their acquisition was a fitting culmination of Mr. Arnold's long years of service. He resigned shortly after, but left behind a library of the English common law second to none.

Mr. Arnold's place was taken by Mr. Edward Brinley Adams, former Librarian of the Social Law Library in Boston. Mr. Adams brought with him his secretary from the Social Law, so now the Librarian had a secretary *de jure*. When Mr. Adams first arrived he did not understand us, or perhaps we did not understand him. He had the loquacity of a Calvin Coolidge and frequently we did not know what he was doing or trying to do. Time and again I felt like crying out with Cicero, "O dei immortales! ubinam gentium sumus." There had been no doubts under the previous regime. We always knew where Mr. Arnold stood. When he called a boy into the office and kicked the door shut (facts, not fiction here) we were quite sure it was not to announce a raise.

As mentioned before, Adams had a dry sort of humor which was frequently exasperating. However, as we got to know him better, there was less and less friction and, with few exceptions, we all liked him very much at the end. Owing to an accident shortly after he graduated from the Law School he had a poor memory and had to rely largely on memoranda. Moreover, he could tell a joke on himself. At one time when he was desperately ill and I was at his home talking over with him library affairs, I mentioned incidentally an article I had been reading on infections due to bad teeth and asked him if an X-ray had been taken. "Yes," he said. "They X-rayed my whole head and told me it was all right; in fact they said there was nothing in it."

In 1916 owing to the untimely death of Professor

Thayer we again had a new dean. Professor Roscoe Pound, who had been on our faculty for a number of years, was appointed to fill the vacancy. From a library standpoint, owing to his extraordinarily comprehensive knowledge of the law of the whole world and its literature, there could not have been a better appointment. He was a true friend of the library staff too, God bless him! in spite of the fact that at times the news got about that something had gone wrong and we all took to cover.

These were prosperous times. There were nearly nine hundred men in the school, and prices had not yet advanced appreciably. In this country an income tax that would stick had just been invented, but it was not very burdensome as yet. But the lean years were coming.

The United States got into the war that was to end all wars and our student body dropped to fewer than 300. Austin Hall and several College buildings were taken over by the government for the Radio School. The field under our east windows became a drill ground. They were a noisy and enthusiastic group. The strains of "Over There" sung by a chorus of over a thousand voices frequently arose from the field and almost every afternoon the recruits used to gather in one of the rooms in Pierce Hall to play and sing. At that time their favorite song was "The Sunshine of Your Smile," which one of our girls called the national anthem, as they invariably began or ended with it.

As our income had dropped so materially, Mr. Adams had to do some close calculating to make both ends meet. These conditions outlasted the war by several years. In February, 1922 the important law library of Justice Benedict of the New York Supreme Court was put up at auction. There were many fine items in it that we wanted. I remember Mr. Adams putting hours and hours of time on the catalogue trying to figure out how much he could buy with the limited funds at his dis-

posal. We got comparatively little. Some years later, when I was attending another sale at the same auction rooms, one of the firm reproached me for our action at the Benedict sale in dropping out of the bidding while the price was still low and letting another library or private bidder take the book. He seemed to regard it as conspiracy between the bidders, but I assured him that we simply did not have the money. Mr. Adams had bid as high as he dared.

Even before the United States entered the war, it had become very difficult to obtain books from Germany and her allies. The British fleet saw to that. We fooled them for a while by getting books through Holland, but this deception did not last very long.

Of course when we entered the war all imports were forbidden. In spite of this fact I once answered a long-distance call from Washington and found it was from the Department of Justice. They wanted to borrow from us a recent German statute dealing with war-profiteering. I called the speaker's attention to the fact that such imports were not allowed. He said he knew that, of course, but was in hope that we might have found a way to get it.

When the war was over, we received a great mass of material that had been sequestered by the British government and held for us. Owing to this fact very few of our periodicals are incomplete for the period.

In the post-war years Mr. Adams made several trips to Europe and purchased outright the libraries of several formerly outstanding lawyers, notably those of the French legal historian, Paul Viollet and the Austrian scholar, Heinrich Lammasch. With the books of the latter a particularly good lot of official records of international arbitrations was acquired. In several of these arbitrations Lammasch had participated and their procurement was a welcome addition to an already creditable collection of this sort of material.

With the restoration of good times we entered an almost new field. Mr. Arnold, over a great many years, had collected a magnificent lot of engravings of English judges and lawyers. The school had several oil paintings of past and present members of the faculty, but very few others. With the enthusiastic support of Dean Pound, taking advantage of post-war economic conditions in Europe, the Library now began actively to purchase portraits in oils of English judges, many of them by world-famous artists. To these has since been added a good number of works of some of the best American painters. The collection now comprises works of Joseph Ames, Joseph Badger, John Singleton Copley, Robert Feke, William Hoare, Charles Hopkinson, Sir Godfrey Kneller, Sir Thomas Lawrence, Sir Peter Lely, Emanuel Leutze, Sir Henry Raeburn, Sir Joshua Reynolds, John Smibert, Gilbert Stuart, Edmond C. Tarbell, John Turnbull, Frederic Porter Vinton, and many others.

Mr. Adams died in March, 1922 and after a short interregnum the present head of the house was appointed. We could not have a better.

ON FRIDAY afternoon, November seventeenth, the Friends of the Harvard Library were invited to a tea to celebrate the gift by members of the Widener family of four magnificent exhibition cases now installed in the rotunda at the head of the stairs.

Jerome D. Greene, Secretary to the Corporation, accepted the gift of the cases on behalf of the University and Philip Hofer spoke briefly of the work of the Friends.

John Livingston Lowes then very persuasively put the case for the preservation of unimportant books of earlier periods. "The now dead books of every period

live, metamorphosed and transmuted, in the pages of the great (and even little) creative writers, notably the poets, of that period. . . . As science, as natural philosophy, or what not, they are obsolete — forgotten and unread. Yet transfigured out of immediate recognition they constitute the stuff of the masterpieces of the world. And that incessant streaming up of dead books into what the Apostle Paul would call ζωὴ ἀκατάλυτος — an indissoluble life — constitutes, I am inclined to think, one of the most moving and significant of human spectacles." The subject of his address was particularly appropriate for a meeting of the Friends of the Library and one to which it would be well that all those interested in libraries should give some thought.

The new bronze cases are set in the four niches of the marble rotunda and are so well proportioned that they already have the air of having always been there. They were designed by Julian Abele of Horace Trumbauer and Co., cast by the Peerless Steel Equipment Company, and have rich red velvet pads supplied by Wildenstein's. The tops are constructed wholly of glass cemented together. They are adapted for exhibiting books of almost all sizes and tend to cast such an aura of rarity and grandeur over their contents that a dime novel assumes something of the importance of an Aldine on blue paper when exhibited within them.

After the address, the Friends stayed on to admire the cases, to chat, and to have refreshments.

THE HARVARD University Library was represented by a group of nine from the staff at the annual conference of Eastern College Librarians held at Columbia University on Saturday, November 25th.

BOOKBINDING LEATHER

By Robert F. Fiske

AN ARTICLE on the Bindery in the May 1938 number of Harvard Library Notes made brief mention of leather tests which the bindery was conducting. From resultant inquiries these tests seem to have aroused sufficient interest to justify a more complete and detailed description of methods and findings.

Purpose

Most librarians depend on their binders to select the best leathers, the binders in turn rely on jobbers, and the jobbers on manufacturers (tanners), hence the librarian depends on the manufacturer. Leather manufacturers are in business, however, to make a living and are not deeply concerned as to whether the binding on a fine copy of this or that lasts for ten or one thousand years. The result has been the "powdered" backs and decayed hinges so prevalent in every library.

In order to protect the librarians of Harvard University and determine the best leathers available for their bindings the Harvard University Bindery has been conducting a series of tests to determine which commercial leathers are most resistant to rot.

Previous Research

As early as 1842 Faraday and others were studying the causes of decay in bookbinding leathers for the London Athenæum Club. It was finally shown that decayed leather bindings contained more sulphuric acid than could possibly have been left in the hides by the tanner and that this acid was the chief cause of the familiar "red rot."

Experiments conducted to find the source of the excess sulphur seemed to show that gas lights, so widely used at the time, gave off the damaging gases. With

the advent of electrical illumination, however, the gas light theory was no longer valid, as books continued to suffer from "red rot." It was then shown that there is sufficient air pollution, particularly in industrial areas, to supply the damaging sulphur even where gas lights are not used.

Messrs. Frey, Beebe, Veitch and Clark of the United States Department of Agriculture have made exhaustive studies on leather decay and its prevention. Their findings have been published in *United States Department of Agriculture Leaflets*, and in various articles in the *Journal of the American Leather Chemists Association*, reprints of which are obtainable. (See Bibliography.) They have also tested many, if not all, of the commercial leathers and tannages available. Of course publications of the Department of Agriculture cannot recommend specific manufacturers by name so, based on its methods, the Harvard University Bindery has run the tests on bookbinding leathers described below.

Collection of Samples

From Thomas's *Registry of Manufacturers* a list of tanners was compiled, including all those in the United States; to this were added a few foreign supply houses. A letter was sent to each concern explaining our purpose and asking them to:

> "submit first grade samples . . . of each type (not color or grain) of skin which you supply for bookbinding. Please mark samples to show from what animals they are taken, tannage, and any other pertinent information."

The response from dealers was most gratifying. They were highly coöperative in volunteering not only material for tests, but also miscellaneous additional information. As a result we were able to test goat, cow, calf, pig, and sheep skins of both domestic and foreign origin and of various tannages. As the samples

were received they were numbered consecutively, and from that time on leathers were referred to by number, obviating unconscious bias.

From the choicest part of each skin several dumb-bell shaped strips were cut and numbered to correspond with the skin from which they were taken. Half of these strips were then sealed in envelopes to be used as controls, the other half being put through the accelerated aging process. After the treated samples were removed from the aging chamber both they and the control samples were tested for tensile strength. The averages of the two sets of samples were then compared to determine loss of strength caused by the aging process. No definite unit of measure was set up, so that results showed the difference between one type of skin and another, but unfortunately gave no comparison to previous or subsequent tests.

Accelerated Aging

In the first aging chamber were used as a corrosive the gases resulting from the combustion of illuminating gas. Two tests were run in this chamber, but in each case condensation moistened some of the samples, so the results were not recorded.

For the third test a large pressure cooker was used, in the base of which rubber and flowers-of-sulphur were placed, the samples being suspended from the top. The cooker was then slightly heated to charge the air within it with sulphur from the rubber. The samples were left suspended in this sulphuric atmosphere (which in a few weeks would equal years of normal exposure) for several months before being tested and compared with the controls. The pressure cooker test proved very satisfactory. Certain leathers which we knew from experience to be of poor quality retained as little as 10% of their original strength.

Result of Tests

It is necessary to give a brief explanation of terms used below in connection with tannages. The four major classes to which we refer are (1) vegetable, (2) "acid resisting" vegetable, (3) chrome, and (4) combination.

(1) Vegetable tanning we take to include all leathers tanned by barks, sumac, quebracho wood, chestnut wood extracts, and other recognized tannins of similar nature, with or without fatty oils added. The chemical nature of such tannins can be determined by laboratory analysis, but the Bindery relied on the description of the supplier. Vegetable tanned leather is the most popular binding leather at present.

(2) "Acid-resisting" vegetable tannage is a variation of regular vegetable tanning by introduction of chemicals believed to give it ability to resist atmospheric action.

(3) Chrome tanning includes those using standard readymade commercial preparations of chromates. They differ radically from vegetable tanning in that the process produces leathers whose advantages and drawbacks depend chiefly upon "the more empty, stretchy, and resilient nature of chrome leathers; its resistance to intimate and uniform wetting back of its fibers; and the dyeing and finishing usually employed for chrome leathers."

(4) Combination tanned leather is first vegetable tanned and then chrome tanned. This process is described by Beebe and Frey in *Journal of the American Leather Chemists Association*, September 1935.

Tests showed that: the resistance of tannages to rot are as follows:

1st (Best)	Chrome
2nd	Combination (Imported not tested)
3rd	Imported Acid Resisting Vegetable (Domestic not tested)
4th	Imported Vegetable
5th	Domestic Vegetable

The resistance of leathers of the same tannage to rot are as follows:

1st (Best)	Goat (Morocco)
2nd	Pig
3rd	Cow
4th	Calf
5th	Sheep

Rough tests for resistance to abrasion showed that pigskin and cowhide ranked above the other leathers in maintaining their original appearance under rough usage. Goat (Morocco) did not wear to the breaking point easily, but the finished surface seemed more easily chipped.

Miscellaneous Conclusions

A few leather dressings were tested in the accelerated aging chamber, but with inconclusive results. New tests will be run in the near future and their results will also be published.

Our conclusions that chrome tanned leathers resist atmospheric pollution better than the widely used vegetable tannings agree with the findings of others, yet it should not be assumed that substitution of chrome for vegetable tanned leather for binding would be wholly desirable.

Vegetable tanned leather, now so widely used, is easy to work, sticks well with ordinary adhesives, and can be lettered or embossed with distinctness. Yet it rots more readily than chrome.

On the other hand, chrome tanned leathers resist rot, but are liable to expansion and contraction with changes in atmosphere and humidity, so that tight joints are not permanent. Moreover, the elastic nature of chrome tanned leathers make pinching it over bands difficult, and its water resisting qualities require special care with adhesives. It is far from the ideal bookbinding leather.

Little definite information is to be had about the qualities of the imported "acid resisting" tannage. Pending further findings on it, our experience and tests show that the best leather for bookbinding is combination tanned leather, combining as it does the high rot resisting qualities of chrome and the workable features of vegetable.

Our results make us believe that for all-around utility, cowhide, which stands extraordinary abuse well, could be made an inexpensive, easily worked leather with high resistance to rot by a combination tanning, but as yet we have not found any on the market.

As one authority states, "The development of more permanent leathers for bookbinding is at present in a transitional stage. Consequently these leathers are not in commercial production and some difficulty is therefore had in securing them." With few exceptions this is true, but we believe that were more information concerning the desirable qualities of combination tanned leather, especially cowhide, disseminated, sufficient demand would arise to warrant its production as stock material.

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WALTER BENJAMIN BRIGGS — A PERSONAL APPRECIATION

By Milton E. Lord

WALTER BRIGGS would be the first to be named by nine out of ten if inquiry were to be made of recent generations of Harvard students, undergraduate and graduate alike, as to which single individual, if any, stands out in their memories as representing the Harvard Library.

This was just as true twenty-five years ago in my undergraduate days as it is now. Of the day when I first set foot in the Harvard Library as a freshman in the autumn of 1915 I have a thoroughly clear recollection, and particularly of Mr. Briggs at that time. He was the officer of the Library whom thereafter I used most frequently to see about the building. For a long time I did not know his name. Nor did I, through a somewhat interrupted undergraduate career, ever have any particular occasion personally to see him other than at a distance. Even by sight alone, however, he was always to me the human embodiment of the Harvard Library.

Some years later, when I entered the service of the Harvard Library in the hope of becoming a librarian myself, I quickly came to realize that the College Library was in no sense whatever a one-man affair. Mr. Briggs was indeed its front-line officer, as it were, its most frequently visible representative. But it had its other highly distinguished officers also — Mr. Lane, Mr. Potter, Mr. Currier, Mr. Winship — all playing

their indispensable significant roles without which the institution could not have carried on. I did my best to point this out to students. To most users of the Library, however, this was not nearly as evident as was the part manifestly played by Mr. Briggs. A query from a graduate student one day brought this home to me. He had just seen a recently posted printed notice of the Library bearing the name of the Librarian as its titular officer. He remarked that he had indeed once or twice before seen mention of such an officer. "But," said he, "isn't that a gross fiction? There isn't any such individual in the Library except Mr. Briggs, is there?"

That Mr. Briggs actually seemed to so many to be the human embodiment of the Harvard Library is clear tribute to his qualities. It is no less a measure of the responsibility which has been his and the degree to which he has met it.

From those of us who worked under him, Mr. Briggs characteristically insisted upon allegiance to certain cardinal principles which he believed to be fundamental in opening up the resources of a great library. Two of these are particularly worthy of mention as throwing light upon his methods of work. The first was that the individual query from the individual student or reader must always be raised above routine considerations. Never was there anything perfunctory about any search which Mr. Briggs undertook. It was the all-pervading interest of the moment. Even if sometimes the more orthodox souls among his assistants may have wondered whether routine was not perhaps being unduly sacrificed in the process, who among them can say that Mr. Briggs's insistence upon the individual was not of the most fundamental soundness? So likewise was his equal insistence that with a great reference collection such as that of the Harvard Library it is rarely, if ever, necessary to send an individual inquirer away without result. He drilled into us a thorough understanding of the prin-

ciple that if for some reason or other it may not be possible to give a reader the precise thing which he wishes, it may, nevertheless, be possible to provide him with something almost as useful to his purpose. From this it was not far for us to a growing realization that in a great library there can as often as not be found the same information, the same text, the same materials, in more than one form. He would not accept failure to find something in the first instance as final indication that the desired information was not to be found at all.

But beyond and above all of this we must not overlook the personal qualities with which Mr. Briggs has constantly endeared himself to those about him. Nor must we overlook the accomplishments of his library career in Brooklyn, and at Trinity in Hartford, in our preoccupation with his Harvard activities. For all of these we salute him!

The Library Picnic

MEMBERS of the library staff and their friends, ninety strong, enjoyed the afternoon and evening of Columbus Day at Cedar Hill in Waltham. The baseball skill of the famed Widener Wildcats displayed itself in softball. An open fire supper was followed by dancing, while Chinese Checkers seemed to hold the rapt admiration of certain prominent staff members. To the enthusiastic committee led by Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, and consisting of Miss Daniells, Miss Beach, Mr. Haviland, Mr. Kilgour, and Mr. Nordbeck, is paid the unanimous tribute that everyone hopes the outing may become a semi-annual event.

W. W. WRIGHT

ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1939, Miss Ella A. Titus retired after forty-three years of library service. Her long association with the Catalogue Department has been described in Mr. Currier's last report from which I quote:

"Coming to the library as a high-rank graduate (Phi Beta Kappa) of Boston University, she has uniformly produced work of the highest grade and has with unusual graciousness and good temper carried her full share, and at times more than her share of the burden of the department. She has been one that could be relied on to appreciate the subtle humor always lurking beneath the surface in a large staff. It is a pleasure to say that her capacity for solid work has remained to her during the past year."

The colleagues with whom she so unobtrusively and generously shared her scholarship and the results of her long experience in library procedure regret most deeply that she is no longer with them and sincerely wish for her every happiness in the future.

C. P. BRIGGS

MR. WALTER BENJAMIN BRIGGS has been appointed Honorary Curator of Maps, as of September 1, 1939.

FOUR courses are being given under the auspices of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences by members of the Library Staff in the Departments of English, Fine Arts, and History. Mr. Jackson is giving English 186, Bibliography, and with Mr. Hofer, Fine Arts 27*a*, a seminar course on the History of the Book. Mr. Halvorson is giving English 185, a half-course intended primarily for first-year graduate students, on Bibliography and Methods of Literary Research. Mr. Walton is continuing his course, History 191*a*, Principles and Practice of Archive Administration.

CONCERNING THE LIBRARY

March 1929–October 1939

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